U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Admin.
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 609
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending March 7, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 4---Again this week, best buys on fruit include small oranges, grapefruit, Rome Beauty apples, and California Newtown apples.

Lemons remain a fairly good buy, but avocados are higher priced, especially on small sizes.

Among the vegetables, some ups and downs in price have shifted things around so that cabbage at a slightly lower price, cauliflower, onions, potatoes a shade higher priced, and spinach a little lower in price top the list of good buys.

Artichokes are down in price to make them a fair buy, and considering the season and lower price, asparagus is a fairly good buy. Other fair buys include broccoli (higher), carrots, peas (slightly higher), and hothouse rhubarb (a little higher).

Celery, lettuce, peppers, and squash are still pretty high priced and tomatoes have almost reached the luxury class.

(MORE)

Meat prices are holding their own and are higher on some cuts of beef and on almost all cuts of pork. Supplies of all classes are clearing daily. The available beef is mostly Commercial to Good steer and heifer beef, with a noticeably scant supply of cow beef. Good beef rounds are up $2.00 this week. In general, the quality on veal is Commercial and Utility, while lamb continues to run mainly Good and Choice. Supplies of lamb are a little heavier, but some curtailment in demand is evident. A very light supply of ewe mutton is in narrow demand. When it comes to pork, prices have taken quite a jump. Both pork loins and spareribs are around $8.00 higher than a week ago; fresh picnics are $4.00 higher; and smoked ham and bacon are up $2.00. However, supplies are enjoying a fairly broad demand.

Light receipts of butter are in fairly active demand with the result that Grade A (92 Score) butter is 3 cents per pound higher this week at 75 cents. Grade B (90 Score) has been in light demand and remains at 71 cents per pound.

Eggs are in rather light supply, too. Demand has improved, and prices are higher on Grade A Large eggs at 45½¢ per dozen and on Smalls at 38½¢ as well as on Grade B Large eggs at 41½¢. Grade A Mediums remain at 41½ cents per dozen.

Moderately heavy receipts of poultry are enjoying an improved demand and higher prices. Broilers, fryers, roasters, heavy weight Leghorn hens, dressed colored hens, ducks, and dressed young hen turkeys are all 1 to 2 cents per pound higher than last week.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending March 14, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 11 ---- Topping the list of best buys this week are California apples and grapefruit at unchanged prices. All apples from the Northwest are considerably higher priced.

The only two fair buys on fruit include small oranges and lemons.

When it comes to the vegetables, we find lower priced artichokes and spinach, together with cabbage and higher priced onions and potatoes, at the top of the list of best buys.

Asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower (slightly higher), lettuce, and peas make up the fair buys.

Carrots, rhubarb, and tomatoes are all higher priced and more scarce.

In looking over available meat supplies, we find that about the best quality beef of the season is now being offered. But prices are higher with steer and heifer beef up $1.00 to $2.00 this week and cow carcasses $2.00 to $6.00 higher. However, there has been no carry-over of supplies and killers are increasing their slaughter to meet demand. More plentiful supplies of veal are showing an improvement in quality, with Choice grade $1.00 to $2.00 higher. Supplies of lamb are fairly liberal, but demand is rather uneven and there's a wider range of quality. Only a very light amount of ewe mutton is being offered, but the outlet for it is narrow. There is evidence of less demand for pork. Supplies are becoming more plentiful, but prices are holding up. Smoked hams and bacon have taken another jump in price and are $7.00 to $8.00 higher.

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In an effort to follow Eastern market trends, San Francisco butter prices have been jumping up and down. Last week they went up to reach 78 to 78½ cents per pound on Grade A (92 Score) and 78 cents on Grade B (90 Score). But on Monday of this week they took a drop, with Grade A (92 Score) quoted at 76 cents per pound and Grade B (90 Score) at 75 cents. Supplies are light, demand strong.

Higher egg prices this week show prices to be up 1 to 3 cents per dozen from last week and 5 to 8 cents higher than last year. Demand remains fairly good for the moderately heavy supplies, but a few eggs have moved into storage.

Lighter receipts of poultry are in more demand -- possibly because of higher meat costs. As a result, broilers are 3 cents higher than a week ago and fryers are 1 to 2 cents higher. Leghorn fowl are up 4 to 5 cents, while colored fowl are running a close second at 1 to 3-cent higher prices.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending March 21, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18---The in-between-season that now exists on fruits doesn't give forth with very many varieties. So once again, California apples and grapefruit are best buys.

Best vegetable buys are artichokes at a lower price, cabbage, spinach, and bunched vegetables to include radishes and mustard greens.

More plentiful and lower priced asparagus heads the list of fair buys, along with cauliflower, plentiful peas, higher priced lettuce, onions and potatoes, green onions, and mushrooms.

Italian squash is a little lower priced, but tomatoes are now very high.

This week's meat supplies find beef ample. The quality is about the best of the season and contains a high percentage of Good grade steer and heifer carcasses. Veal supplies are liberal, but are running in a rather wide range of quality. As for price, there is no appreciable change on either beef or veal. Fairly plentiful supplies of lamb are showing a wider range of quality. And in anticipation of the new crop spring lambs that will be coming to market soon, prices are $1.00 to $2.00 lower. Ewe mutton is selling $2.00 to $4.00 lower. More plentiful supplies of pork find the majority of cuts selling at lower prices. Fresh pork loins are $4.00 lower, picnics $2.00 lower, spareribs $3.00 to $5.00 lower, and fresh pork hams are $2.00 loss. There's a fairly liberal supply of smoked hams and bacon available.

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Butter supplies are heavier, butter production is higher, prices are lower, and demand shows improvement. In keeping with the price breaks in Eastern markets, San Francisco wholesale butter prices range 2½ to 5½ cents lower than last week. Grade A (92 Score) is quoted at 73½ per pound and Grade B (90 Score) at 69½¢. For the week ending March 6, Pacific Coast production showed a gain of 6% and was 76% above the corresponding week last year. Sales are holding up well in the San Francisco market. Retail sales for the week ending March 8 were 1½% larger than for the previous week and 230% above last year.

An increase in egg production is resulting in heavier supplies in the markets. Prices are very little higher than a week ago with Grade A Large eggs quoted 1/2 to 1 cent higher at 48½ to 49¢ per dozen and Grade A Mediums unchanged to 1 cent higher at 44½¢. Grade A Small eggs continue at 38½¢ and Grade B Large at 42½¢ per dozen.

Some classes of poultry are higher priced this week as the result of lighter supplies — mainly broilers and fryers. Both live and dressed broilers are 1 cent per pound higher, fryers are up 2 cents, and dressed roasters are 1 to 2 cents higher. On dressed turkeys, we find young hens 2 cents per pound lower and young toms 1 cent higher.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending March 28, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25---Again, California Newtown apples and grapefruit are tops as far as good buys are concerned.

Small oranges for juice purposes are a fair buy.

A few strawberries from Southern California are coming to market, but they are still priced in the luxury class.

Heading the list of best vegetable buys are artichokes, with asparagus more plentiful and lower priced running a close second, and lower priced cabbage and plentiful spinach following in close succession.

Fair buys include lower priced carrots and rhubarb, peas, squash, and higher priced onions and potatoes.

Good quality celery is fairly high priced and a shade higher than last week, while lettuce is selling about the same and mushrooms are a little higher. Tomatoes are still high, but slightly lower priced than last week.

Less demand and lower prices seem to be the theme of the meat market this week. Beef slaughter was held to a minimum again in order to work off the accumulation of supplies. Choice grade is relatively scarce and there is only a light offering of cow carcasses. Prices are little changed from a week ago. But plentiful supplies of veal are $1.00 to $2.00 lower on a full range of quality. Demand for lamb and ewe mutton is slow with the result that Commercial to Choice lambs are selling $2.00 to $4.00 lower. Only a moderate amount of pork is being offered, and although inquiry is a little broader, demand is lacking. Prices are lower with fresh picnics, loins, and skinned hams all down $2.00. There is very little change on bacon.

(MORE)

Butter prices are 2 to 2½ cents lower this week in keeping with the highly erratic trends that have been existing in butter markets all over the country. Grade A (92 Score) is quoted at 71 cents per pound and Grade B (90 Score) at 67½ cents. Shipments have been attracted to the Pacific Coast because of the break in prices in Eastern markets. As a result, supplies are heavier here. But demand shows improvement with retail sales four times larger than last year at this time.

Eggs are fairly plentiful now. Prices are lower, too, with Grade A Large eggs 2 cents per dozen lower at 46½ to 47 cents per dozen and Mediums down 1 cent at 43½ cents.

Some classes of poultry are lower priced this week as the result of fairly large supplies and less demand. Broilers, small fryers, and roasters are all 1 to 2 cents per pound lower; heavy fryers are down 2 to 4 cents; and heavy Leghorn hens are 1 cent less. Turkeys continue as one of the best buys with prices 2 to 5 cents per pound lower on dressed hens.

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